

Princeton, May 2, 1882

To Messrs. Randall L. Gibson, Chas. E. Fenner, James McConnell, T. G. Richardson, M.D., Edward White, E. H. Farrar, P. N. Strong, B. M. Palmer, D.D., Hugh Miller Thompson, D.D., Chas. A. Whitney, Sam'l Kennedy, Walter Stauffer, Cartwright Eustis, Henry Ginder, John T. Hardie, R. M. Walmsley, and Wm. O. Rogers:

GENTLEMEN—A resident of New Orleans for many years of my active life, having formed many friendships and associations dear to me, and deeply sympathizing with its people in whatever misfortune or disasters may have befallen them, as well as being sincerely desirous of contributing to their moral and intellectual welfare, I do hereby express to you my intention to donate to you by an act of donation *intervivos*, all the real estate I own and

I am possessed of in the said city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, for the promotion and encouragement of intellectual, moral and industrial education among the white young persons in the city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, and for the advancement of learning and letters, the arts and sciences therein, my intention being that the benefits shall be applied and expended in the city of New Orleans.

By the term education, I mean to foster such a course of intellectual development as shall be useful and of solid worth, and not be merely ornamental or superficial. I mean you should adopt the course which, as wise and good men, would commend itself to you as being conducive to immediate practical benefit, rather than theoretical possible advantage. I wish you to establish or foster institutions of a higher grade of learning where the young persons to be benefitted shall, upon due examination, be found competent and qualified for admission, both by age and previous training, to receive the benefits of a more advanced degree of educational culture.

Intellectual advancement should be unfettered by sectarianism, but the profound reverence I entertain for the Holy Scriptures leads me to express here the hope, that the educational development intended by this gift, should never antagonize, but be in harmony with the great fundamental principles of Christian truth contained in them.

I express to you now my formal intentions in order to suggest to you the advisability, should you determine to aid me in my purposes, that you should take such steps as may be necessary under the laws of Louisiana to enable you to accept the donations when made, thus giving me the assurance that my purpose, when executed, will be carried out with fidelity, and be rich in bountiful results.

The fact that property donated for educational purposes is at this time liable to taxation in the State of Louisiana, has occasioned me much embarrassment, as I should like to feel that the citizens of that State, who are to be the beneficiaries of this donation, should enjoy its advantages to the full measure of the value of the property donated. There are other States whose laws do not, by taxation, repel such gifts in aid of education, whose wise example, I am assured, will be followed by the State of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans in such instance; and I earnestly urge that you make immediate effort to secure the exemption of this property from taxation, and be constant in so doing until your efforts are successful.

The character of the property donated is to remain unchanged. It cannot be mortgaged, and it cannot be sold nor incumbered in any way, except at the end of not less than fifty years, as hereinafter stated. Mortgaging it or selling it, and the investment of the proceeds in stocks, bonds or other securities, might and probably would lead to disaster, owing to the uncertain and fluctuating nature of the value of securities of every description. On the other hand, the real estate, the title to which I intended to donate to you, is well located, and can not fail to increase in value as the city shall become prosperous.

You must keep the property well insured in solvent offices and in good repairs, so that the best rental possible may be realized.

The plans and details of any organization, corporate or otherwise, must of

necessity be left to your own judgment; but I desire to communicate to you my wishes in such manner as to enable you more fully to enter into the motives which impel me, thereby enabling you completely to enter into my thoughts and purposes.

Of course, whatever I may determine to donate to you, should you conclude to organize, will be (whilst leaving you the absolute owners of the property) with the object of enabling you, in your discretion, to use the revenues for the purpose already by me mentioned.

I suggest and recommend—1. That in your organization, whatever form it may assume, that my friend, Gen. Randall Lee Gibson, be your chairman or president, and that Judge Chas. E. Fenner and James McConnell may be vice presidents or vice chairmen. 2. That you provide for the filling of any vacancies in your number by death, resignation or otherwise, by election. 3. That whilst my desire is that you shall continue my purpose for more than fifty years, nevertheless I would consider it no violation of these wishes should you, when organized, determine, after fifty years, no longer to perform the duties incident to the ownership of this property which I may donate, and the income of which, I have expressed the desire, that you administer, as aforesaid; in that event, I suggest that you distribute the property, or the proceeds from the sale thereof, among such educational or literary institutions, or for such educational purposes as you may determine, in the city of New Orleans, as are contemplated by this donation. 4. In order that there shall be no doubt in regard to my intentions, I will say it is not my desire to bind you to distribute the incomes or benefits of the fund or property to any particular school, college or institution of learning, or to create any claim on the part of any school, college or institution of learning, to any distributive share; nor do I design to subject you collectively or individually to any responsibility to those intended to be benefitted, or to any individual responsibility of any sort for the management of the property and fund, which may be by me donated.

I have entire confidence that you will carry out with wisdom, equity and fidelity my expressed suggestions. It would be personally agreeable to me if you would retain the services of Mr. P. N. Strong, of New Orleans.

In order to prevent misapprehension, I desire to say you should, of course, make such disbursement as you may deem it fair to expend in the employment of any necessary agent or otherwise, and especially to keep the property well insured, and in a proper state of repair.

With devout gratitude to our Heavenly Father for enabling us to perform these plans, and invoking His divine blessing upon you and your counsels, and upon the good work proposed among the present and future generations of our beloved Crescent City.

I remain, with great respect,

Your friend and humble servant,

PAUL TULANE.